

**Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled after the Third General Election under the Sovereign
Democratic Republican Constitution of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 9 A. M. on
Friday, the 23rd March, 1962.

PRESENT

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS, (Acting Speaker), in the Chair,
Ten Ministers, Two Ministers of States, Three Deputy Ministers, one
Parliamentary Secretary and Seventy four Members.

**Order No.1 from the Governor *Re: Appointment of a Member
to perform the duties of Speaker.***

The Secretary: The following order has been received from the
Governor :—

“In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 180 of the
Constitution of India, I hereby appoint Shri Omeo Kumar Das, B.A., a
Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, to perform the duties of the
office of Speaker of the said Assembly until the Speaker is elected.

Sd/—S. M. SHRINAGESH,
Governor of Assam”.

Raj Bhavan:

The 14th March 1962.

**Order No.2 from the Governor *Re: Appointment of Shri Omeo
Kumar Das, B.A., M. L. A. as the person before whom the
Members of the Assembly shall make and subscribe
their oath of allegiance***

The Secretary: The next order of the Governor is as follows :—
“In pursuance of Article 188 of the Constitution of India, I hereby
appoint Shri Omeo Kumar Das, B.A., a Member of the Assam Legislative
Assembly, as the person before whom the Members of the said Assembly
shall make and subscribe their oath until a Speaker is elected.

After the election of the Speaker of the Assembly, the oath shall be
made and subscribed before the Speaker of the said Assembly and in his
absence before the Deputy Speaker or when the Assembly is in session and
both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent, before the person
who may be presiding over the Assembly for the time being.

Raj Bhavan:

The 14th March, 1962.

Sd./—S. M. SHRINAGESH,
Governor of Assam.²²

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE BY [23rd Mar.,
MEMBERS UNDER ARTICLE 188 CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA

**Oath or affirmation of allegiance by Members under Article 188
of the Constitution of India**

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Acting Speaker): I now take item No.2.

The procedure that will be followed is this. The Secretary will call out the names of hon. Members one by one. He will first call the Leader of the House and then other Ministers, Ministers of State, Deputy Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary and the names of others Members will then be called by him in alphabetical order. Hon. Members will please come up to the Secretary's table, take the oath, sign the register, shake hands with the Chair and then they will resume their seats.

I would request Mr. Secretary to call out the names now.

(The Secretary then called out the names beginning from the Treasury Benches in the following order):—

1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, Chief Minister.
2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Minister.
3. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi, Minister.
4. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma, Minister.
5. Shri Dev Kanta Barooah, Minister.
6. Shri Baidya Nath Mookherji, Minister.
7. Shri Moinul Hoque Chaudhury, Minister.
8. Shri Rupnath Brahma, Minister.
9. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Minister.
10. Shri Chatrasing Teron, Minister.
11. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi, Minister of State.
12. Shri Radhika Ram Das, Minister of State.
13. Shri Lalit Kumar Doley, Deputy Minister.
14. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua, Deputy Minister.
15. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika, Deputy Minister.
16. Shri Sai Sai Terang, Parliamentary Secretary.

17. Shri Maulana Abdul Jalil Chaudhury.
18. Shri Abdul Munin Choudhury.
19. Shri Abu Nasar Md. Ohid.
20. Begum Afia Ahmed.
21. Raja Ajit Naryan Deb.
22. Shri Akhoy Kumar Das.
23. Shri Bahadur Basumatari.
24. Shri Baliram Das.
25. Shri Bazlul Basit.
26. Shri Bishnulal Upadhyya.
27. Shri Biswadev Sarma.
28. Shri Chanoo Kheria.
29. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.
30. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.
31. Shri Derajuddin Sarkar.
32. Shri Devendra Nath Sarma.
33. Shri Dulal Chandra Barua.
34. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.
35. Shri Dwarikānath Tewari.
36. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma.
37. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.
38. Shri Gouri Shankar Roy,
39. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha.
40. Shri Haladhar Uzir.
41. Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar.

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MEMBERS UNDER ARTICLE 188 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

42. Dr. Homeswar Deb Choudhury.
43. Shri J. B. Hagjer.
44. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.
45. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath.
46. Shri Khagendra Nath Barbaruah.
47. Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami.
48. Shri Lila Kanta Bora.
49. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.
50. Shri Lokhyanath Doley.
51. Shri Madhusudhan Das.
52. Shri Mahammad Idris.
53. Shri Mahammad Umaruddin.
54. Shri Mahadev Das.
55. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
56. Shri Mal Chandra Pegu.
57. Shri Md. Matlebuddin.
58. Shri Mohananda Bora.
59. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.
60. Shri Malia Tanti.
61. Shri Moti Ram Bora.
62. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha.
63. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.
64. Shri Pabin Sarma.
65. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain.
66. Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury.
67. Shri Shriman Prafulla Goswami.

68. Shri Pulakeshi Singh.
69. Shri Radha Krishan Khemka.
70. Shri Ramdeb Malah.
71. Shri Rampirit Rudrapual.
72. Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah.
73. Shri Ram Nath Das.
74. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey.
75. Shri Ram Prasad Das.
76. Shri Rathindra Nath Sen.
77. Shri Santi Ranjan Das Gupta.
78. Shri Sarat Chandra Singha.
79. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
80. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi.
81. Shri Siba Prasad Sarma.
82. Shri Surendra Nath Das.
83. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali.
84. Maulavi Tazuddin Ahmed.
85. Shri Tankeswar Chetia.
86. Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee.
87. Shri Tilok Gogoi.
88. Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan.
89. Shri Zahirul Islam.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Acting Speaker): Item 3 Election of Speaker. There is one nomination paper which I find to be in order. I shall read out the particulars of that nomination paper as required by sub-rule 30 of the Assembly Rule 7. The nomination is in favour of Shri Mohendra Mohan Chondhury and I have much pleasure in declaring Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury to be duly elected to the high position of a Speaker of this House unopposed.

(Cheers from all sides of the House.)

I would now be requesting Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury to come here and re-occupy the Chair which he had adorned since 1959 and which he had to vacate in deference to the Constitution. But before I request him to come here I would like to offer a few words of felicitation to him, for his unanimous re-election. It is no elevation for him. Members within the House and the people in general outside are aware of the excellent qualities of his head and heart. He had been in this House since 1946 and had during these years earned a great deal of experience in various capacities provided under the Constitution. He is well known for taking initiative and execution with a good deal of courage. His unanimous re-election only indicates how he has won the hearts of the people. He had during his tenure of this exalted office in the previous term acquitted himself to the satisfaction of all. I only echo the sentiments of a large section of members when I mention that the rights and privileges of the members of this House are safe in his hands.

I trust, with his all-round abilities, he will contribute to the efficient transaction of business here. With these words, I request Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury to come and take the Chair. Thank you.

[At this stage Shri Omeo Kumar Das (Acting Speaker) vacated the Chair and Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury occupied it]

FELICITATION TO THE SPEAKER

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my proud privilege to convey to you on behalf of myself, the Party I represent and as the Leader of the House, our respectful felicitations on your unanimous election as the Speaker of this august House. This office of Speaker is one of the most respected offices in a democratic set up of the country and such an office is always adorned by the people who command respect not only inside the House but also outside as well. Sir, you are such a person and the House has rightly decided to give this honour to you. The very high quality which you possess, the vast experience you have earned in public life since the days of your college life, the great sacrifices which you have made by participating in the Freedom Movement are all known to the people of our State. I am certain that the rights and privileges of this House are safe in your hands and we all believe that you will discharge your duty as the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House without fear or favour. Sir, I, on my behalf and on behalf of the party which I have the privilege to represent and as the Leader of this House, assure you our full co-operation in discharging your heavy responsibilities. With these few words I conclude by repeating our respectful felicitations on your unanimous election to this very respected office.

***Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the P. S. P. group I congratulate you on your unanimous election to the highest position in this House. You occupied this position in the last Assembly and you earned respect and reputation as a true respector of democracy. Sir, we have worked under a democratic constitution, but sometimes we feel sorry that we are not yet able to convince the people that democracy is a living principle. Sir, you are elected to this esteemed office from a political

party but from this day you belong to no party and you have become a custodian of the rights and privileges of all the members of this House irrespective of their political affiliations. I have full confidence in you and I hope that this House will be able to establish a true democratic tradition under your guidance. I assure you our full co-operation in achieving this end and I congratulate you again.

Shri KHAGENDRANATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Sir, I take this opportunity to offer my greetings and felicitation on your unanimous election as Speaker of this House. Sir, Assembly is the highest institution in a democratic country, because it deals with the laws of the land, the problems of vital importance and issues which agitate the minds and evoke despair in the minds of the people and are being discussed by the Members of this House for finding out solutions and suggestions are being offered from time to time by the different Members of the House. Sir, the different problems and legislations are viewed from different angles by Members with different political ideologies. In expressing the minds of the Members of this House, I hope equal opportunities be will extended to the members of this House irrespective of their political affiliations.

Sir, our country is surrounded by dictatorial regimes both in the East and the West and hence for upholding the democratic tradition of our country and for strengthening the development of democracy in our country you will have to play an important role. Unfortunately this time.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Barbaruah the time of the House is very short and I hope you will kindly confine yourself to the felicitation.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Let me again offer my greetings and felicitation to you. Thank you Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of myself and on behalf of the people whom I have the privilege to represent here, offer my greetings and felicitation for having elected you to this high and noble post. We are sure, Sir, we the members in this side will be very much benefited by your matured guidance and I also hope that the healthy deliberations that will take place in the floor of this house will be able to keep high tradition of the House and also be very much helpful for the development of this backward State. Particularly we the new comes to this parliamentary arena will always look for your constant guidance and procedural advice in all matters and we hope you will be able to guide us in proper way as a true custodian of democracy in this sacred floor of the House.

Sir, as the spring is coming with new vigour and energy we are here with new vigour, new energy and also with new ideal to work for the betterment of the people although there are many old members who resemble like old wine in new bottle. Your responsibility is to channalise it in proper way for the development of the State. We have firm confidence in your abilities and we are sure you will guide us to work unitedly in this

House and outside the House like one family Sir, I need hardly mention that Assam is a problem State and special responsibility lies on the shoulders of the representatives and we are sure under your able guidance we will be able to lead the people of this State in a democratic and constitutional way towards the achievement of our desired goal, *i.e.*, real democracy and prosperity of the people.

Sir, with your permission I want to appeal to the ruling party and its Leader not to ignore the existence and the wishes of the opposition Members representing the wishes of substantial portion of electorates here, so that our suggestions also may be taken into account at the time of making the rules and procedures and passing bill with a real spirit of Parliamentary Democracy. I sincerely urge our friends in the other side of the house not to carry all issues come before the House by strength of majority. Rather I hope they will adopt a more democratic method to accommodate the views and wishes of both sides of the house, thus translating the spirit of Parliamentary Democracy to a Reality. Once again, I congratulate you and I hope you as a custodian of this House safeguard the rights and privileges of the Members and guide us in proper way. Specially those who are not belong to any political party I am sure Sir, under your able guidance, will be able to go ahead with noble endeavour with our view to build up our golden Assam. Thank you Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I have to cut down the proceedings as the Governor has to arrive here at 10:57 A.M. I shall reply to the felicitation after the Governor's address and I hope the Members will wait till then.

Governor's Address

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this august House. Amongst you I find many old friends who have been re-elected to this house and also others who have been newly-elected. I extend my warm greetings to you all. You have indeed a great task to perform in the coming years in translating into action the hopes and aspirations of the people by placing constructive proposals before the Government. It will also be your duty to give guidance and leadership to the people. I wish you all success in the great task before you. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the vast electorate, members of the political parties and the officers of the Government engaged in conducting the election for the part they have played in seeing that the third general elections were held in a peaceful and efficient manner. In the present session, my Finance Minister will place before you proposals for

a vote on account and will be reviewing the administrative and economic trends in our State. In the next session the budget proposals for the ensuing year will be presented before you, and on that occasion I will have once again the pleasure of referring fully to the future programme of my new Government. I will now restrict myself to a brief review of the problems that confronted my Government during the past year and the achievements of my Government during that period.

2. The year was significant in that the situation in the Assam-East Pakistan border was satisfactory due to the implementation of Ground Rules and the vigilance exercised by our Border Security Forces. A few minor border incidents that occurred left no significant effect on the existing relations between the two countries at the border. The few cases of loot, raids and kidnapping in the border villages were neither on a large scale nor did they form a regular feature. In all these cases, my Government lodged strong protests with the Pak authorities against the criminal activities of the Pak nationals. The vigilance exercised by us on the border and the expeditious settlement of minor disputes kept away the occurrence of major incidents. Recently, however, in the latter part of January 1962, a patrol party of our Border Security Force was attacked by some personnel of the East Pakistan Rifles and two of our constables were kidnapped and taken away to East Pakistan. The matter was forthwith taken up with the Pak authorities and as a result thereof, the two constables were returned to us. Also, a Pak sepoy who voluntarily surrendered to us in the Garo Hills border, on January 7, 1962, was returned to the Pak authorities in accordance with an agreement between the Commanders of both sides under the provisions of the Ground Rules. The progress achieved in the demarcation of the boundaries between Assam and East Pakistan has been satisfactory. The demarcation is expected to be completed during the current season. The Deputy Commissioners of the districts on the border on either side have been meeting periodically to discuss and settle all the minor disputes as provided in the Ground Rules. The Pak nationals entering Assam without valid travel documents were apprehended and punished under the relevant laws. On expiry of the period of sentence, these unauthorised entrants are being deported to Pakistan. My Government has taken and is taking effective steps to check illegal infiltration of Pakistanis.

3. While the situation on the Indo-Pak border remained satisfactory, the criminal activities and depre-dations of the hostile Nagas in the border areas of Sibsagar and United Mikir and North Cachar Hills Districts continued during the year under review. The violent activities of the hostiles included looting and plundering of the bordering villages and also occasional interference with the Railway traffic by damaging Railway tracks and shooting at running trains. In one recent instance, a patrol party consisting of our police personnel was ambushed by the hostiles and in the exchange of fire that ensued, one of our Constables was killed. Although a considerable increase in the hostile activities of the Nagas was noticed since the beginning of 1962, timely measures taken by our police and army personnel have kept the hostiles under check. But there was a shocking incident in the middle of this month in the Hajadisa area in North Cachar Hills where six villages have been burnt by Naga hostiles and one person was killed. Necessary arrangements for giving relief to the victims have been made.

4. The law and order situation in the State, in general, was normal and satisfactory till the out-break of the Language Movement launched by the Cachar Sangram Parishad in the Cachar District in the month of May 1961, over the language issue. Following the movement, large scale disturbances broke out in the entire district undermining the law and order situation and also causing great harm to the developmental and nation-building activities in the district. At one stage the police had to resort to firing at Silchar resulting in the unfortunate death of a number of persons and injuries to several others. Government has already appointed a Commission of enquiry consisting of Shri Gopalji Mehrotra, Chief Justice of the Assam High Court, to enquire into the firing incident. The report of the Commission is expected to be received shortly. To control spread of the disturbances and restore normalcy, my Government had to adopt preventive measures under the Criminal Procedure Code, the Assam Disturbed Areas Act, 1955 and the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958. After the unfortunate incident at Silchar, the law and order situation further deteriorated in the district culminating in the unfortunate incident at Hailakandi on the 19th June 1961, when the police had again to resort to firing causing death to 5 and injuries to 8 persons. Curfew was also clamped

down in the affected areas and the situation was restored to normalcy. The disturbances caused large-scale damage to private property and many people were rendered homeless. My Government took prompt relief measures, sanctioned *ex-gratia* grants to the victims of the disturbances and spent a considerable amount by way of relief and rehabilitation loans. Out of 1,007 persons arrested during the disturbances some have been convicted, some released and the cases of others are still pending.

5. In my last address to the House, I had mentioned my Government's proposal for reorganisation of the Police force in the State. This scheme for reorganisation is receiving due consideration of my Government and it is expected to be implemented under a phased programme on the basis of availability of funds.

6. In the sphere of development, the year 1961-62 was an important land-mark, ushering in the Third Five Year Plan. During the period covered by the first two Plans the tempo of developmental activity has been considerably accelerated. Against a modest Plan expenditure of Rs.20.5 crores during the First Plan period the expenditure during the Second Plan period is estimated to be Rs.53.90 crores. For the Third Plan the outlay in our State will be of the order of Rs.120 crores. Over and above this, the provision under the Central Sector is expected to amount to Rs.80 crores. In addition, some investments under the Private Sector will also take place. Assam's prospects under the Third Plan are, therefore, full of promise.

7. In an agrarian economy such as ours, the basic aspect in the Plan is the attainment of complete self sufficiency in food production. In our State, during the Second Plan the target of 2.50 lakh tons of additional food-grains has been achieved. The estimated total production at the end of the Third Five Year Plan is 17.00 lakh tons. To achieve this target my Government has undertaken various schemes for introducing improved methods of cultivation, use of fertilisers and schemes for land-reclamation and also various research schemes for improving agricultural practices. During the year under review a campaign for encouraging Rabi crops throughout the State has been launched and this move has created great enthusiasm among the people. In the Hills

districts the progress of work under the agricultural programmes has been very encouraging. In these districts vast areas have been brought under minor irrigation, soil conservation, seed distribution, fertiliser distribution and green manuring schemes. Double cropping which is not usually known in the Hills districts has also been introduced in these areas. The Horticulture Development Scheme in the Hill areas has brought encouraging results. Also 805 Field Management Committees were organised in the Hill areas.

8. Closely linked with the programme for increased food production is the programme for stabilisation of prices of agricultural commodities keeping in view the purchasing power of the consumer. Towards this end my Government has built up buffer stocks by procuring foodgrains through co-operative societies. Through the co-operative agency the maximum price is offered to the cultivator and the agency of the middleman is done away with. In view, however, of the recent Supreme Court judgement, the State Government had to amend the Assam Foodgrains (Licensing and Control) Order, 1961, in order to continue the State-trading in foodgrains through the co-operatives. The year 1961 opened optimistically with a carry over of ten lakh maunds of paddy from the previous year's procurement. Unfortunately, however, the last winter paddy harvest fell short of expectations. The production of Ahu paddy was also poor as large areas originally put to cultivation of Ahu came under jute because of the favourable prices of this cash crop. The food position in our State was, however, satisfactory and the prices of foodgrains remained generally steady. Whenever upward trend of prices was noticed in certain deficit pockets, my Government took prompt measures to maintain the price level by release from the buffer stock. The supply position of other foodstuffs like salt, sugar, pulses, oil, wheat products, etc., remained satisfactory and their prices were generally stable.

9. During the past few years my Government had taken several important measures in the field of Land Reforms and has also formulated a well defined Land Settlement policy for settling waste lands with deserving persons. In my last address, I had mentioned the steps taken by my Government in appointing a committee to assess the extent of cultivable waste land in the State

This committee has already submitted a report which is under the consideration of my Government. In order to check the spreading menace of encroachment on Reserve lands my Government has also amended the rules to provide for the speedy and effective removal of encroachment.

10. As in the past, during 1961, our State was affected by flood and drought in several areas. Fortunately, however, unlike in the two preceding years, the floods were confined to only three districts. My Government took prompt action for affording relief to the distressed people in the affected areas.

11. The recurrence of floods and drought has again emphasised the need for extension of flood control schemes and also the execution of irrigation schemes. My Government has already taken up some important flood control projects and irrigation schemes. Notable among the irrigation schemes is the Jamuna Irrigation Scheme which will cost over Rs. 193 lakhs. When completed, the scheme will benefit 63,000 acres of land.

12. Expansion of the industrial sphere is an inseparable and very important component of any planning for development in an underdeveloped country. In our State, my Government has taken far-reaching steps in this direction and has achieved considerable progress in the various schemes taken on hand. The most significant land-mark in this sphere in our State was the inauguration of the Oil Refinery at Gauhati on 1st January 1962. Another important development was the inauguration of the Spun Silk Mill at Jagi Road. The Schemes regarding the Natural Gas Distribution Project in Upper Assam, Meter Manufacturing Plant at Shillong, Fertilizer Factory at Namrup and Pulp and Paper Mills Factory in Cachar District are in progress. My Government has also given due emphasis on the development of small scale industries. In this sphere, the progress of schemes which are already in operation is satisfactory. Plans are also under consideration for encouraging small scale industries by way of imparting stipendiary technical training in various trades, supply of required finance in the form grants and loans and assistance in finding suitable markets for the finished products.

13. A major industrialisation programme as envisaged in Assam, underlines the need for supply of cheap

and abundant power. In fact the scope for generating plenty of power forms the very basis of any programme for industrialisation. In Assam, with scores of natural advantages, we are in a happy position. My Government has taken up several gigantic schemes for harnessing the natural advantages to the production of more and more power. The Umiyam Hydro Electric project is already on its way to completion. The work in the Naharkatiya Gas Turbine project is progressing. The schemes for Kopili Hydro Electric project and a Thermal project at Garo Hills are being finalised.

14. In the context of a major industrialisation programme, my Government has been conscious of the requirement of increased number of technical and other personnel and to this end has already undertaken a phased programme for increased facilities for technical and general education. The programme for development of Colleges and the 3 year-degree-course Classes is also under progress. The Board of Secondary Education has since been constituted. Some of the important schemes in this sphere, in the Third Plan, are the establishment of Polytechnics, Junior Technical Schools and the expansion of the Engineering Colleges.

15. In the field of Rural Development, as I pointed out in my address to the last Assembly, my Government has gone ahead with the implementation of the scheme for decentralisation of power upto the village level and vitalisation of democracy in the rural areas. In all the Panchayat institutions in the State, namely, 16 Mahkuma Parishads, 120 Anchalik Panchayats and over 2,500 Gaon Panchayats, the elected bodies have replaced the *ad-hoc* bodies. The efforts of my Government in delegating increasing power and responsibilities to these institutions, in the sphere of planning and execution of developmental programmes at the village level, have met with great response from the people. Realising that the planning in the villages should have its foundations in increased food production, my Government has focussed attention of the Village Panchayats to the task of formulating and implementing "Village Production Plans". In order to build up proper traditions and conventions in the conduct of business of the Panchayats, the Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries are being given training in various aspects of Panchayat administration. At the Anchalik level the territorial jurisdictions of National

Extension Blocks have been readjusted, to make them correspond to the jurisdictions of the Anchalik Panchayats in order to pool up funds available from various sources and co-ordinate the efforts of different agencies for the development of the Anchal. As the implementation of the Community Development Programme has been entrusted to the Panchayats, the officers of the Blocks are being given training to reorient themselves to the functions and responsibilities in the new set up. Sanmelans of officials and non-officials connected with the Panchayats at various levels are being held for dissemination of knowledge and experience gained in the administration of Panchayat and also for exchange of ideas and evolving solutions for the problems encountered. In the matter of Community Development programme, against the target of 160 Blocks to cover the whole of Assam State 84 are already in operation and 28 are in the pre-extension stage. In the ensuing year it is proposed to commence operation in the rest of the 48 Blocks to cover the entire State.

16. In the Autonomous Districts the various development programmes have been in progress. To protect the interests of the tribal people over land, the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills and Mikir Hills District Councils have passed necessary Acts restricting transfer of land to persons other than Scheduled Tribes. In the Mizo District where there was practically no land tenure systems, the Mizo Hills District Council has enacted an Act under the title Mizo District (Land Revenue) Act. My Government has also been conscious of protecting the interest of Tribal people living in the plains districts of the State. A Committee has been appointed to study the actual working of the Tribal Belts and the Blocks constituted under the Assam Land Revenue Regulation and to give concrete suggestions for removal of defects, if any, in the present system. The report of the Committee is expected to be received shortly.

17. My Government's programme for expanding medical facilities throughout the State has been progressing. In order to meet the increased requirements of medical personnel steps are being taken to establish a third Medical College at Silchar besides the two already functioning in the State. Steps have also been taken to encourage studies in Ayurvedic medicine by strengthening the Ayurvedic College at Gauhati. Ayurvedic out-door sections have been opened in certain Civil Hospitals.

18. The year under review is important in the history of rehabilitation of displaced persons in the State. In accordance with the decision of the Government of India to wind up the rehabilitation activities in the State as early as possible, my Government's efforts are directed towards implementation of all the remaining schemes within the target period. The question of integration of activities of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department with the relevant permanent Departments of the State Government has also been taken up in right earnest.

19. My Government has also given due thought to the problems of checking the haphazard growth of towns. Among the major schemes taken up in this context, is the preparation of a Master Plan for Greater Gauhati and constitution of the Gauhati Authority for implementing the Master Plan. Town Committees have also been constituted in some of the growing towns to plan the growth of the towns on right lines.

20. In the field of transport, my Government has prepared a scheme for raising, pitch-surfacing and providing parking space for lorries at the foreshore at Gauhati. This scheme has been submitted to the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board. We have also invited Global tenders for the first phase of Rope-way Project from Shella to Shillong. The construction of Pandu port is in progress.

21. The labour relations during the year under review continued to be peaceful. In the field of employment there was a rise in the number of unemployed persons as compared with the figures of the previous year. Simultaneously, there was also a marked increase in employment opportunities.

22. In recognition of the need for an institution for training young entrants into the State Civil Service, in order to give them necessary grounding regarding their functions and role in the democratic set up, my Government has established an Administrative Training School at Jhalukbari. This School started functioning regularly in the latter part of January 1962, and the first batch of trainees from A. C. S. Class I and II are already undergoing their training.

23. Before I close this address I would like to refer to the visit of Acharya Vinoba Bhave to our State. We have been fortunate in having the Acharya for about a year in

our midst. He has carried the message of peace and non-violence to hundreds of villages and wherever he has been the Gramdan movement has received strength. In order to facilitate the management of this gift land, on the lines desired by the Acharya, my Government has enacted the Gramdan Act which has come into force from the 10th March, 1962. The Acharya is now on his return journey. I take this opportunity of conveying to him, on behalf of us all, our respectful greetings and appreciation of his valuable contributions to the moral and social betterment of our State.

24. I have only briefly touched upon the numerous welfare and developmental activities of my Government. The progress achieved so far has been reassuring despite the natural and manmade difficulties that confronted us. The people of the State have contributed in a large measure to the success of the schemes already implemented. The future programme before us, envisaged in the Third Plan, calls for further determined endeavour and co-operation from all. In the great task before us I invite the co-operation of all members of this house irrespective of political affiliation and hope this will be forthcoming.

(After finishing the address, Governor left the Chamber)

MOTION ON GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Under rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a Speech, a copy of which was already laid on each Member's table.

I have received notice of a motion from Shri Sarat Chandra Singha which is as follows:

"That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on 23rd March, 1962."

I hereby fix 24th March, Saturday, 26th March, Monday and 31st March, Saturday, as the dates for discussion of the motion or matters referred to in the Governor's address.

Notices of amendments to the motion or the address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 4 P.M. today.

Felicitation to the Speaker

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, we take up item No.3.

***Shri NANDA KISHORE SINGHA (Silchar-West):** Mr. Speaker, Sir allow me to felicitate you on behalf of my Party, on your unanimous election as the Speaker of this august House. You Sir, carry with you a long

tradition of devoted Service to the country and your unanimous election today shows what trust and confidence you enjoy among all sections of the people in the State and therefore among all sections of this House. From today as the custodian and authority of this august House you cease to be a Partyman and we expect you and look forward for your impartial, impassionate and fair discharge of your responsibilities. From our side we shall offer full co-operation in the discharge of your onerous duties. With these few words, I again congratulate you on your unanimous election as the Speaker of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Chief Minister and Leaders of different Groups of Member of this House. I thank you all for the signal honour you have conferred on me by electing me unanimously as the Speaker of this House once again.

I hope and trust I shall get your full co-operation in discharging my duties impartially.

I, at times, because of my strong likes and dislikes about men and things, feel unequal to the job of a Speaker and I felt great hesitation to continue the job. But your unanimous choice on me gives me courage and confidence to shoulder the burden.

Let the confidence reposed on me serve as a beacon light throughout my tenure of office as the Presiding Officer of this august House.

Looking around the House I miss many old faces, some of whom were great stalwarts in parliamentary field. While feeling their absence we feel very much elated to see very many new faces in their places. I welcome you more particularly our new friends, most heartily and hope to see you shining in Parliamentary field by dint of your labour and merit. I shall always endeavour to help you in developing your parliamentary talents to whatever extent I am capable of.

Let us hope that the wisdom and the experience of the old, coupled with vigour and talents of the new, help us in building up healthy democratic traditions.

Once again I thank you all for the kind benedictions you have showered on me. I assure you to try to live upto your expectations.

Before I conclude, I must express my deep gratitude on your behalf as well to Shri Omeo Kumar Das, who was appointed Speaker for administering the Oath to the newly elected Members, which duty he has discharged creditably well. I thank him on your behalf. With these words, with thanks to you all for all the good words you have spoken about me. I conclude.

Panel of Chairman

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I adjourn the House, I want to make one announcement:

The following hon. Members shall form the Panel of Chairmen:

1. Shri Ram Nath Das,
2. Shri Akshoy Kumar Das,
3. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain,
4. Shri Nanda Kishore Singha.

The House stands adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 24th March, 1962.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 24th March, 1962.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly,
Assam.